

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA MONROE
DIVISION OF MUSIC
DEPARTMENT OF PIANO

SYLLABUS OF PIANO PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS

The following pages contain an outline of the course of study for students who are pursuing piano as a minor instrument to fulfill degree requirements. This program is designed to assist students in acquiring functional keyboard skills necessary for completing the Piano Proficiency Examinations required of all music students. It is the student's responsibility (as well as the instructor's) to see that the requirements in each level are properly fulfilled.

All students registered for credit must take a piano proficiency level jury at the end of each semester. It is expected that a minimum of one proficiency level will be completed each term. If a student fails to meet the minimum requirements for a particular level (i.e., does not pass a jury), that level (and course number) will need to be repeated the following semester.

A student who has prepared two or more proficiency levels for examination must fulfill all the requirements in each level. The student will be examined on all requirements. Once a level has been satisfactorily completed, the examination material of that level will not be covered again.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE VARIOUS DEGREE PROGRAMS

Bachelor of Music – Applied Instrumental Major	through Proficiency Level IV
Bachelor of Music – Applied Vocal Major	through Proficiency Level VI
Bachelor of Music – History/Literature	through Proficiency Level VI
Bachelor of Music – Theory/Composition	through Proficiency Level VI
Bachelor of Music – Music Theatre	through Proficiency Level VI
Bachelor of Music Education – Instrumental Major	through Proficiency Level IV
Bachelor of Music Education – Vocal Major	through Proficiency Level VI
Bachelor of Music Education – Instrumental&Vocal Major	through Proficiency Level VI

LEVEL I

Suggested Material: Lancaster, E.L., Kenon. (2004), 2nd ed. *Group Piano for Adults, Bk. 1*, Van Nuys: Alfred Publishing

Examination:

1. Scales in all major and minor keys (3 forms) in tetrachord position
2. Major and minor penta-scales and authentic cadences – hands separately
3. Major and minor arpeggios in all keys for one octave – hands separately or hand crossing
4. Three familiar tunes worked out by ear and harmonized with I and V7 chords; each tune should be in a different key, and played in both the parallel major and minor of the modes (Appendix B-1).
5. Two prepared pieces from repertoire studied (memory not required)
6. Sight reading

LEVEL II

Suggested Material: Lancaster, E.L., Kenon. (2004), 2nd ed. *Group Piano for Adults, Bk. 1*, Van Nuys: Alfred Publishing

Examination:

1. Major and Harmonic minor scales that begin on the white keys, two octaves, hands separately or together (HS or HT), using standard scale fingering.
2. White key major and minor tonic arpeggios, two octaves, HS or HT.
3. Tonic major and minor chord inversions, HS or HT
4. Cadential pattern in the above keys, 1st position only, Hs or HT.
5. Three familiar tunes (to include “Happy Birthday” in a singable key) worked out by “ear” and harmonized with I, IV, V, or V7 chord; each tune should be in a different key with a suitable accompaniment pattern
6. Two prepared pieces from repertoire studied (memory not required).
7. Sight reading material to include two-part writing.

LEVEL III

Suggested Material: Lancaster, E.L., Kenon. (2004), 2nd ed. *Group Piano for Adults, Bk. 1*, Van Nuys: Alfred Publishing

Examination:

1. All major and harmonic minor scales beginning on black keys, two octaves, HS or HT.
2. All major and minor arpeggios, two octaves, HS or HT.
3. All major and minor chord inversions and cadential chord patterns in first position only, HS or HT.
4. Prepare a harmonization of a melody chosen from Appendix C and transposed up/down a major 2nd and a minor 3rd.
5. Prepare a familiar tune by “ear” with three different accompaniment patterns, each in a different key.
6. Two repertoire pieces (memory not required). Only one piece will be asked for the exam.
7. Sight reading material to include 3-part writing.

LEVEL IV

Suggested Material: Approved by Instructor

Examination:

1. Major/minor scales/arpeggios/chord cadences – three positions in all keys – hands separately.
2. Be prepared to play Dorian, Phrygian, Lydian, Mixolydian modes in all keys.
3. Be able to construct all types of seventh chords in any key.
4. Prepare the harmonization of a melody incorporating 2 or more forms of seventh chords.
5. A prepared hymn or 4-part chorale.
6. Performance of a prepared accompaniment for an instrumentalist. Student must arrange for soloist. (Instrumental majors, only)
7. One prepared piece from repertoire studied.
8. Sight reading.

LEVEL V

Suggested Material: Approved by Instructor

Examination:

1. Major and harmonic minor white key scales, two octaves, hands together.
2. Major and minor white key arpeggios, two octaves, hands together
3. Chord exercises Nos. 3, 4, and 5 in all keys, HS or HT (Appendix A)
4. Transposition of a 2-part melody chosen by examiner.
5. Two prepared pieces in contrasting style periods from repertoire studied. (Only one piece will be performed in Jury).
6. Sight read a vocal solo accompaniment
7. Sight read a three-voice open choral score, SAB style.

LEVEL VI

Suggested Material: Approved by Instructor

Examination:

1. Major and harmonic minor black key scales and tonic arpeggios, two octaves hands together.
2. Arpeggios built on diminished 7th and dominant 7th chords, (beginning on any note), hands separately, two octaves.
3. Two prepared pieces from repertoire studied. (One piece will be performed on exam)
4. Performance of a prepared accompaniment from standard vocal repertoire. (Student must arrange for soloist).
5. Sight-reading of an open score (SATB style)
6. Choose a melody from a source provided by your instructor; harmonize with appropriate chords and transpose to remaining white keys. (Appendix G)